Development of forest villages in Madhya Pradesh

†475. SHRI PYAREALAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages alongwith total amount sanctioned for them by the Central Government, so far for development of forest villages in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) Whether the said amount has been released to the Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) whether there is any amount left under this head, if so, what is the amount and by when it would be sanctioned and released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has accorded sanction for development of 679 forest villages out of 925 forest villages in Madhya Pradesh at a total project cost of Rs. 103.86 cr. out of which Rs.66.64 cr. has been released so far. Release of further funds to the State Government for this purpose would depend on submission of Progress Reports and Utilization Certificates, as prescribed by the Government.

Fund to achieve targetted forest cover

476. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the National Foresty Action Plan, the total requirement of funds to achieve the target of improvement and expansion of forest and tree cover in the country by 2012 is Rs.1,35,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details of amount that Government have released since the inception of the National Forestry Action in 1999, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that allocation of money for tree plantation and forest improvement is one of the constraints to achieve 1/3rd forest and tree cover by 2012; and

(d) if so, what action plan do Government have to allocate more funds, so as, to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The National Forestry Action Programme-India 1999 envisages an estimated investment of Rs. 1,33,902.78 crores for a period of 20 years.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.